

[0041] The inventive apparatus can, in principle, be used in all control and data transmission installations, that is to say, for example, in automation bus systems and, particularly, also in systems having a serial automation bus, such as a bus in accordance with industry standard EN 50254, specifically, “Reference No. EN 50254: 1998 E”, dated December, 1998, issued by CENELEC, the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization. According to requirements, each of the modules of the automation bus system which are connected to the supply voltage in series may in this case be assigned an inventive apparatus in the manner described. This applies not only to the entire system but also, in particular, to modules in an individual local bus section or a bus spur in the automation bus system. However, it is also possible for just one inventive apparatus to be assigned to a plurality of modules connected in succession in the automation bus system, so that the relevant modules connected to the supply voltage in series are all turned on and off together by the individual inventive apparatus.